

DIGGING OUT SHELL REEF. FACED BY AN ANGRY WIDOW.

Plans to Remove a Dangerous East River Obstruction.

The Channel to Be Dredged to a Uniform Depth of Eighteen Feet.

The bold mariners who navigate all kinds of craft through the turbulent waters of the East River will have great sighs of relief when they learn that that dangerous obstruction to navigation known as Shell Reef will soon be removed by the Government. Surveys have been made, and estimates of the cost of removal are already before the House of Representatives.

Shell Reef has made the East River from Broome street to Twenty-third street a spot to be carefully avoided by pilots in charge of deep-draught vessels. During low tides large steamers and sailing vessels have been obliged to hug the eastern side of the channel in passing up or down the river. This is done to avoid the dangerous west shore.

The reef begins at the foot of Broome street, and gradually extends outward until a maximum width of 1,100 feet is obtained. Then it turns inward to Twenty-third street, where it ends. Although the whole shoal is commonly called Shell Reef, there is only one spot really entitled to that name. That is opposite the corner of Twenty-third street and Madison Avenue, where a spur of solid sharp-pointed rock protrudes from the bottom until at low tide only nine feet of water cover it.

The whole shoal is 800 feet long. The dangerous portion is 275 feet from the Tenth street pier, and 250 feet from the Brooklyn shore opposite.

The removal of this enormous ledge of rock is bound to be expensive and dangerous. At just this point the tide only runs like a mill race, and vessels will only be able to pass with difficulty.

The work of surveying and boring was begun July 22 last. The work was done in a thorough manner by Lieut.-Col. G. J. Gillespie, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Lieut. Col. E. G. W. Kuehne, ably assisted by a party from the Hydrographic Office under the direction of Mr. J. Johnston.

These observations were completed Sept. 28, but frequent borings were made during the following months.

It might be interesting at this point to tell how the borings are made. A saw belonging to the Hell Gate plant was anchored over the spot to be bored, and a device was set up to move the saw in different directions at slack water.

They were tourists and had been charmed by Mr. John Russell on board the steamer *Aramis*, arriving in New York Monday

The American posed on board ship as Inspector Byrne's chief detective, returning from a tour of duty in California, for which he was to receive \$2,000. He arranged to be the tourist's guardian and guide in New York.

They were so charmed by his manners that Mr. Russell gave him a \$700 diamond pin and intrusted \$1,000 to him to exchange for a diamond and emerald ring.

Charles was so taken with the ring that he insisted on giving it to the young man, who was the possessor of the finest piano she ever saw.

There will be no steel, no creed, considered in this contest. It is open to all female Sunday-school teachers without regard to creed or faith.

Prize money is extended to all readers of THE EVENING WORLD, but nominations are confined to female Sunday-school teachers now teaching in either New York, New Jersey or Connecticut.

The voters must vote one of the ballots printed in THE EVENING WORLD, with the name of the Sunday-school teacher to whom he or she desires to vote, giving the name of the Sunday-school in which she teaches.

The voter must sign the ballot, giving his or her residence, and mail the ballot, addressed to "The People," to the possessor of the finest piano she ever saw.

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WILLIE ASTOR'S SERVANTS FIGHT.

Thomas Douglass Held for Assaulting His Successful Rival.

Charles Phillips, English, and Thomas Douglass, Irish, were unmistakable specimens of the model servant when they appeared before Justice Hogan in Jefferson Market Police Court this morning, only Charles having handles over a really demoralized eye, and there were various scratches and abrasions on his face.

Charles was complainant against Thomas. He said that last evening, as he was walking home from the office of his employer, Mr. Astor, he met him. He did all he could to injure me and resign. He has since applied to me with all sorts of people to whom I applied for employment.

Charles and Thomas tried to talk the dispute over with Justice Hogan, but finally settled the dispute, leaving Douglass for trial.

SLUGGED BY JIM IRVING.

Theatre-Agent Slocum Has the Empire's Ex-Keeper Arrested.

ADVISED TO DISORGANIZE.

Christian Scientists Receive a Message from Their Prophets.

Ex-Assemblyman James Irving, who kept the Empire on Sixth Avenue, and was sent to the Penitentiary for brutally beating his bartender, was a prisoner in the Yorkville Court before Justice Ford this morning on a charge of assault.

Edward M. Slocum, the advertising agent of Jacobs Third Avenue Theatre, was the first to report that there are plans to remove any rock which would not effect this depth would be worse than useless.

Commerce, he says, would be well satisfied with that depth for many years to come.

To dredge this average depth from Broome street to Twenty-third street would cost, according to the estimates, \$200,000. This does not seem to be a safe length, when such an important work is indeed, when so dangerous, as the losses that have been occasioned by the presence of these rocks are considered, it is comparatively nothing.

Col. Gillespie, though, says one thing in his report, and that is that it is safe to be sure to pick up and discuss. He says that commerce will be satisfied with an eighteen-foot depth for a number of years to come. But for how long? navigators will be vessels are being built larger and deeper every year. If a depth of eighteen feet is attained by the proposed work it may be necessary to go all over the again in the near future.

With an eye to this future Col. Gillespie has prepared estimates for a deeper dredging, and the following table has been sent in with the report:

Depth.	Estimated Cost.
15 feet, shell reef.	\$1,100,000.
15 feet, entire sand.	300,000.
21 feet, entire sand.	1,020,000.
21 feet, entire sand.	4,040,000.

The first three items only provide for the removal of mud, sand, clay, gravel and boulders at \$1 per cubic yard. The others, which are added extra, will be noted include the removal of mud, sand, &c., and also the blasting and removal of the bed-rock.

The blowing up of these dangerous rocks will be the work of Major McDevitt, who has struck these rocks and sink, and it was the result of these accidents that the surveys and estimates were ordered.

The next recent occurrence of this kind was the wrecking of the Second Avenue Club of Richmond Hill, in the Winter of 1887. The day was bitter cold and a howling northwester had been blowing the water out of the harbor steadily for hours. This resulted in a great loss of life, and the captain of the City of Richmond, who had passed in the vicinity and over Shell Reef many times before, did not suspect that his vessel would strike.

Sixty years ago, Mrs. Jenkins, a poor fisher, had a huge hole in her button. She backed off, but filled so rapidly that her commander headed for Potters Beach, Greenpoint, and beached the vessel. She stuck to the bottom, was after wards pulled up, and was taken ashore. The C. H. Northern, another Second steamer, ran ashore three or four years ago on the spur of rocks off Thirty-fourth street.

This was not, strictly speaking, Shell Reef, but is a continuation of the same ledge of rock.

In 1892, the steamer Pilgrim found a rock in the channel, the existence of which had hitherto been unknown. This boulder was immediately removed to the Jefferson Market Court this morning and held to the intent of window-sash and door. After the steamer's name, and the date of the accident, he was captured by Detective Baldwin last night.

No Light on Manhattan Mutual. The promised statement of the condition of the Manhattan Mutual Fire Insurance Company was not forthcoming to-day. The Evening World reporter was informed by a source close to the company that the insurer is not prepared to speak, and don't know when he will do so.

Battle at Budgewood. The Brooklyn Association team will play the St. Louis Browns two games at Budgewood tomorrow, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Prepared by A. J. Stump & Co., Local, Mass.

DUFFY REMEMBERS KEENAN. DO YOU GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL?

He May Recall Fatal Facts About the Boulders' Banker.

Col. Fellows Placidly Awaiting a Call from Charlie Dempsey.

Maria A. Thayer, a pretty and exceedingly interesting little widow from Munny, Rockland County, who had loved not wisely but well, was in Jefferson Market Police Court, and also in a flutter of excitement when she appeared to-day as complainant against a robust and affable man who had won her heart, and so she did, got \$1,000 of her savings and more.

She knew nothing about John Russell, but the Police Department officials have had some time on their books as John McDermott, an old cab-driver for Ryerson & Brown.

Mrs. Thayer, a pale-faced, wrinkled, brown-haired little woman, said to an EVENING WORLD reporter:

"That man paid attention to me for two years. He said he loved me, and we were to have been married, last April. He told me so in the Excelsior Bank of this city. We walked in the twilight in my little village of Munny, and looked at a pretty little house, and I said, 'I'll marry you if you'll give me \$1,000.'

He agreed to do so, and she paid him back, and he paid her back, and she paid him back again.

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